

CLAIMS

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A latch system for a container, the container including a first section and a second section, the latch system comprising:

a deflectable pin coupled to the first section; and

a latch coupled to the second section, the latch including a deflectable pin engaging member;

wherein the deflectable pin is configured to absorb relative movement between

10 the first section and the second section.

2. The container latch system of claim 1, wherein the deflectable pin is mounted to the bottom section and the latch is coupled the top section.

15 3. The container latch system of claim 1, further including:

a deflectable pin stop positioned adjacent to the deflectable pin;

wherein the deflectable pin stop is arranged to stop the deflection of the deflectable pin.

20 4. The container latch system of claim 1, wherein the deflectable pin is mounted to the top section and the latch is coupled the bottom section.

5. The container latch system of claim 1, wherein the container is substantially waterproof and substantially airtight.

6. A latch system for a container, the container including a first section and a second section, the latch system comprising:

a latch pin mounted in the first section; and

5 a deflectable member mounted in a latch, with the latch pivotally coupled to the latch pin so that the deflectable member is positioned between the latch pin and the latch; wherein the latch is structured to removably engage the second section, and the deflectable member is configured to absorb relative movement between the first section and the second section.

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7. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is structured to resist relative movement between the latch and the latch pin.

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8. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is structured to provide a means for adjusting the force required to pivot the latch about the latch pin.

9. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is a bushing.

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10. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is a cylindrical bushing that includes a plurality of deflectable ribs positioned substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the cylindrical bushing.

11. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the deflectable member is a bushing comprised of a material selected from the group consisting of plastics, rubbers, metal alloys, aluminum alloys, and other metals.

5 12. The latch system of claim 6, wherein the latch system secures the first section against the second section so that the container is substantially waterproof and substantially airtight.

13. A container comprising:

10 a first section and a second section, the first section including a plurality of support members arranged to extend over the second section; and a plurality of ribs located on an exterior surface of both the first and second sections; wherein the plurality of support members are positioned between the plurality of 15 ribs, and the support members are structured to limit relative movement between the first section and the second section.

20 14. The container of claim 13, wherein each rib has a side wall, and each support member is positioned between the side walls of two adjacent ribs.

15. The container of claim 14, wherein the plurality of support members contact the side walls of the plurality of ribs when a force is exerted upon at least one of the first

section and the second section, thereby limiting relative movement between the first section and the second section.

16. A container comprising:

5 a first section and a second section;
a removable hinge pin;
a plurality of hinge pin receivers positioned on both the first section and the second section, the hinge pin receivers configured to slideably receive the hinge pin; and
a hinge pin locking member located on at least one of the first section and the
10 second section, the hinge pin locking member structured to keep the removable hinge pin engaged with the hinge pin receivers.

17. The container of claim 16, wherein the hinge pin locking member comprises a locking tab that is structured to frictionally engage a section of the hinge pin, so that the
15 hinge pin can be unlocked and removed from the hinge pin receivers by hand.

18. An container of claim 16, further comprising:

a sealing element positioned between the first section and the second section, the sealing element structured to create an airtight seal between the first section and the
20 second section; and
a vent located in the airtight container, the vent structured to be selectively opened and closed.

19. The container of claim 18, wherein the sealing element comprises a deflectable member removably positioned in a recess located in at least one of the first section and the second section.

5 20. The container of claim 18, wherein the vent comprises a threaded hole and a vent cover structured to be removably threaded into the threaded hole.

21. The container of claim 16, further including:

10 an extendable handle slidably positioned on at least one of the first and second sections, the extendable handle including at least two legs;
a locking member slidably mounted in at least one leg, the locking member structured to releaseably lock the extendable handle in at least one of an extended or stored position.

15 22. The container of claim 21, further including:

an attaching member structured to slidably mount the extendable handle to at least one of the first and second sections, the attaching member including at least two apertures configured to receive the locking member;

20 23. The container of claim 22, wherein the locking member comprises a sphere spring-mounted in an extendable handle leg, the sphere sized to be removably receivable into the apertures located in the attaching member.

24. A container including a first section and a second section, the container comprising:

deflectable latch means for releaseably coupling the first section to the second section and for absorbing relative movement between the first and second sections when the first and second sections are coupled together.

25. The container of claim 24, wherein the deflectable latch means comprises:

a deflectable pin coupled to the container; and

a latch coupled to the container, the latch including a deflectable pin engaging

10 member;

wherein the deflectable pin is configured to absorb relative movement between the deflectable pin and the deflectable pin engaging member.

26. The container of claim 24, wherein the deflectable latch means comprises:

15 a latch pin mounted in the first section; and

a deflectable member mounted in a latch, with the latch pivotally coupled to the latch pin so that the deflectable member is positioned between the latch pin and the latch;

wherein the latch is structured to removably engage the second section, and the deflectable member is configured to absorb relative movement between the first section and the second section.

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27. A container including a first section and a second section, the container comprising:

deflectable latch means for releaseably coupling the first section to the second section and for absorbing relative movement between the first and second sections when the first and second sections are coupled together;

5 a plurality of ribs extending around an exterior surface of both the first and second sections;

10 a plurality of support members arranged to extend over the second section, the plurality of support members positioned between the plurality of ribs, the support members structured to limit relative movement between the first section and the second section;

15 a removable hinge pin;

20 a plurality of hinge pin receivers positioned on both the first section and the second section, the hinge pin receivers configured to slideably receive the hinge pin; and a hinge pin locking member located on at least one of the first section and the second section, the hinge pin locking member structured to keep the removable hinge pin engaged with the hinge pin receivers.

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the container is substantially waterproof and substantially airtight.